

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CLVT 159

MAGI # 0501595602

CT-159

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Log Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Leonard Road (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

St. Leonard

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER Storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trueman Gas Company

Telephone #: 586-0222

STREET & NUMBER

St. Leonards

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: JLB 116/221

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A title search on this property supports the claim of oral history that the log portion of this structure was a black schoolhouse. JLB 116/221 refers to this as the "school lot", AWR 31/590 indicates its use as a "colored school." AAH 40/402 (February 23, 1939) records the sale of the property from the Calvert County School Board to Harry B. Trueman and says that it had been "used by the party of the first part as a Colored School." No records seem to exist indicating from whom the property was acquired by the school board, which may be an indication that the school pre-dates the fire of 1882.

The present owner says that he has heard that this was a white school prior to serving the black community. In this respect, it is important to note that the schools thus far recorded in Calvert County which are documented as late Nineteenth Century structures are all of frame construction. Port Republic (1893) and Cedar Hill Schoolhouse (c. 1882) are examples. In residences at least, the use of logs as a building material is sometimes more of an economic indication than a factor of age. It is known for example that blacks were building with logs as late as 1909 (See Joseph Smith House). Whites built and occupied log structures but do not appear to have done so much after the third quarter of the Nineteenth Century. These observations are included only because this is a log structure which appears to be Late Nineteenth Century and had a function which usually made use of frame construction.

The particulars of this schoolhouse are that it measures 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 20' with 8' to the eaves on the north side (school was originally built into the side of hill which has since been graded off.) The walls are made of logs hewn square approximately 5" x 8" thick of which there are eight to the eaves. They are laid 3" - 4" apart and filled-in with flat iron-stone pieces laid side-to-side and fixed with mortar. The logs are V-notched on the ends and form square corners. The exterior is finished with board-and-battens. The boards are knotted and measure 8" x 11" x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The battens are 2" wide and 1" thick.

The roof is A-frame with gables on each end. The gables are covered with clapboards, and the eaves are boxed-in. The soffit of the eaves is 9" deep and appears to be pit-sawn; it contains white wash and cut-nails. (as do the boards and battens of the south wall.) The rafters are hewn 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. They are notched so as to rest upon the hewn plates. The uprights of the gables are of the same size as the rafters and are toe-nailed into the plates. Roughly hewn are notched to accommodate the rafters. They are 3" wide and 1" thick and are placed at 5" intervals. The floor joists are hewn and run north to south.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Pre-1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Calvert County Schoolboards

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A one room schoolhouse constructed of V-notched logs. Most of the Late Nineteenth Century schoolhouses in the area are of frame construction. This school is thought to have been built prior to 1882 and it was last used as a schoolhouse in the 1930's when it served the black community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY - 1 ac.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

(Capsule)

Log Schoolhouse

A one room schoolhouse constructed of V-notched logs. Most of the Late Nineteenth Century schoolhouses in the area are of frame construction. This school is thought to have been built prior to 1882 and it ~~was~~ last used as a schoolhouse in the 1930's when it served the black community.

Moved or destroyed Fall 82 - Winter 83 ORV

An interview with Miss Blanche Wilson (March 8, 1977) supports Mrs. Taylor's claim that William Howe was the builder of the school. Miss Wilson was one of the later teachers there (c. 1926-1935) and William Howe Jr. whose children attended school there would stop by early each morning and build a fire for her.

In her day there, Miss Wilson says the school was called the "St. Leonards Colored School", although she remembers it having been called "Bayside School" earlier. What is more important is that she remembers quite well that her board designation was "School #5, District 1".

Public Schoolhouse Accounts (1867-1882) has an entry for 1866-1867.

"By log house--\$100
By one acre of land--\$30
By one furniture--\$20"

Miss Wilson is not certain if the school had an entire acre to it, although she remembers that it had a large yard around it with woods enough behind so that "it could have been an acre." Miss Wilson owns two or three properties and has an understanding of what an acre is. She states that in the 1920's the school did not share the corner of the intersection with any other building.

Miss Wilson's memories of the atmosphere at the little log school in the 1920's is vivid. She remains in contact with her pupils and is lucid concerning physical details of the building as well as in such things as daily routine, salary, etc.

She confirms that there was a window in the gable over the entrance. Although the exterior had whitewashed weatherboards when Miss Wilson first arrived c. 1926, the interior was not finished and the logs and chinking

were left exposed. Contrary to Mrs. Taylor's report (a student of Henry Johnson's) Mrs. Wilson only remembers one chimney and stove and she only recalls having seen sash windows. She recalls a tin roof. The yard was not fenced in and it contained many stumps from recently killed chestnut trees. With a donation of some boards from the Trueman Lumber Company, the boys were able to make "see-saws" designed to uproot the stumps. Thus the yard was eventually cleared.

Miss Wilson is specific about the whitewashed exterior because the task of freshening up the outside was part of an annual event known as "clean-up day." Usually held in the Fall at the beginning of the year, this event was more enjoyable than it appears at first thought. The children would come to school, especially dressed for the task of cleaning up the building both inside and out and raking the yard. The fresh coat of white-wash was applied on that day. All was not drudgery, however, as the parents would provide a pic-nic supper complete with such goodies as home baked pies and cakes.

The daily routine at the school perhaps was less exciting and provides a great contrast to the modern classroom. The single room housed grades 1-7 at once including as many as thirty students. Classes would begin at 9:00 a.m. but as early as 8:30. Miss Wilson's method was to begin one grade working on a lesson and then the next and the next in order that the other six grades would be busy while she worked with any one. She does not recall major discipline problems and points out that the older students were relied upon to help the younger ones.

Lunch was no doubt looked forward to and while students usually brought a lunch there were many times when Miss Wilson cooked lunch for everyone on top of the woodstove. She kept a pot in the back of the room for preparing soups and hot cereals. She says that it was not uncommon for the kids to bring in some beans with them so that she could fix bean soup.

Classes resumed at about 1:00 p.m. and lasted until 3:30. During the day, students received instruction in reading, geography, penmanship, and arithmetic plus once a week there was "crafts." Girls would learn how to sew and boys would often do woodwork. Since they were the sons of carpenters (every man was a carpenter in those days, she said) Mrs. Wilson feels that she may have learned more from them. She still has on her table at home a napkin holder made in one of these sessions. The bright red object was cut in the shape of an apple with a hatchet and small saw.

Recess was not absent from the daily routine, and, weather permitting, took place out in the yard. What ever playground equipment they had, they made themselves (e.g. the see-saws) except for a dodge-ball which Miss Wilson says was purchased.

Miss Wilson is a 1923 graduate of Coppins State College in Baltimore and says that she is decended from a line of cooks, preachers, and teachers. Her maternal grandmother, Cecilia Harrod, (born December 14, 1849) and her great grandmother, Selina Golder, were house servants for the Parran family prior to Emancipation. Miss Wilson says that she loves to iron "fine things", and she did learn how to cook but had aspirations for teaching. She was not the first in her family to take that direction. Miss Wilson's cousin, Lucy, was the first Negro teacher in Baltimore.

An interview with Mrs. Myrtle (Howe) Taylor produced the following information concerning the log schoolhouse at St. Leonards.

Mrs. Taylor is seventy-six years old, and she lives just north of St. Leonards in the house which her father built in c. 1905. Her father's name was William H. Howe, Jr. Mrs. Taylor remembers her father telling her that his father William H. Howe, Sr. built the school. The construction of that school was made necessary by the burning of the Island Creek Church (Brooks Church) where the Negroe children of that community used to attend classes. Her father, Mrs. Taylor says, remembered the school being built. William H. Howe, Jr. was born in 1864, and he died in 1946 (age eighty-two). Mrs. Taylor's father did not attend the St. Leonards school (also called Bayside School) but she did. She has in her possession a badly damaged photograph in which she appears along with a dozen or so classmates standing in front of the school with the students and their teacher, Mr. Henry Johnson. Also identified in the photograph is Bertha (Boome) Green, another interviewee for this report.

In the vague photograph, one can see the board-and-batten siding and that it was painted white with "whitewash" as Mrs. Taylor recalls. While looking at the photograph, she also remembered that there were two woodstoves in the school with one being on either side of the single room. Each had its own chimney. Another architectural feature which sticks in her memory are the sliding windows. She remembers windows which opened by sliding them horizontally.

Mrs. Taylor says that the log schoolhouse was built by blacks for black children and that it always served only as a Negro school.

Much of the buildings importance lies in this fact, although its simple construction should not fool one into doubting its architectural significance. The importance of log construction in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century vernacular architecture in America is well documented. Surveys have proven its proliferation in Southern Maryland and Calvert County in particular. Houses, barns, kitchens, cornhouses, and the like have been recorded in significant numbers. Apparently this was not the only log school building in this county. According to Public Schoolhouse Accounts (1867-1882), there were log schools in all three election districts in 1866-67. The entries are not detailed in their information. The first is typical of what appears in the ledger:

"By log house--\$100
By 1 acre of land--\$30
By 1 acre of furniture--\$20"

For the year 1866-67 similar entries appear in all three districts:

Five in E. D. #1
Four in E. D. #2
Two in E. D. #3

Thus eventhough this information is scant, it can be concluded that money was spent by the schoolboard on "log houses" in all three districts.

CHESAPEAKE

20673

GOVERNORS RUN

509

KENWOOD BEACH

WESTERN SHORE ESTATES

SAINT LEONARD

CT-159
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1992

BAY

CALVERT BEACH PARK BEACH

CALVERT BEACH ESTATES

ROAD Creek

Kings

Branch

CALVERT BEACH

FLAG HARBOR

Flag Harbor Corp Club

CALVERT BEACH ESTATES

LONG BEACH DRIVE

LONG BEACH

bins Map 12 240,000 FT

MD 230,000 FT